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LB 465A, 465

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Wickersham, you're recognized to open on the A bill.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Mr. President, if you'll excuse me just a moment, the LB 465 requires an A bill because we're adding one additional commissioner to TERC. The second year cost, which is really the indicator of what the ongoing costs are going to be, is approximately \$150,000. Now, that is not only...let's see, can I see the fiscal note...that is not only for a commissioner. There are some additional costs that are associated with travel. There are some additional costs that are associated with benefits for an additional commissioner and, in addition, the commission is requesting the addition of a business manager that can handle employee issues, the NEIS system, and the NAS system. I'm a little bit confused on that aspect but we will be able to sort that out I think at a later date. The fiscal note indicates that that work is currently done by the Chair of the commission and, because the Chair would be rotated every two years, it would be necessary to retrain someone else. So it's appropriate to have a business manager. The audit that has been performed of the agency indicates that that work is presently performed by Mr. Hans, who is not the commissioner. Whether Mr. Hans does the work or whether Mr. Reynolds, who is Chair of the commission, does it, it may be appropriate in any event to have a business manager appointed for the committee or for the commission. It would perhaps assist them in their work. Certainly, I don't know that commissioners ought to be assigned the day-to-day workings of the commission. I think it's fairly obvious that they might have more important things to do or to think about. With that, I'd ask your support for advancement of the A bill.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. President, members of the body, I concur with Senator Wickersham's analysis. I was going to rise and support the fiscal note on this too. It is perhaps a tad frustrating to add a business manager to this proposal, but realistically there's a pretty good-sized workload over there. The fiscal note makes sense at this point and I support it.